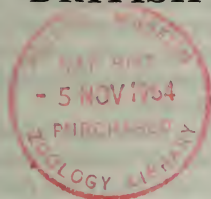


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The six hundred and nineteenth meeting of the Club was held at the Rembrandt Hotel, London, on the 20th October, 1964.

Chairman: Major-General C. B. Wainwright

Members present 37; guests 12.

Sir Landsborough Thomson spoke on the compilation and scope of *A New Dictionary of Birds* shortly to be published.

Lady Lathbury showed and commented upon two films in colour of East African birds and mammals.

Notes on *Andropadus masukuensis* Shelley and the status of *Andropadus tephrolaema kungwensis* (Moreau)

by B. P. HALL AND R. E. MOREAU

Received 10th June, 1964

We have recently had occasion to examine the status of *Andropadus tephrolaema kungwensis* described from the Kungwe-Mahari mountains on the east side of Lake Tanganyika (Moreau 1941: 60) and believe that it does not belong to the species to which it was originally ascribed but to *Andropadus masukuensis* (which certainly forms a superspecies with, and by some is regarded as conspecific with *A. montanus*—the older name). There are no very clear diagnostic differences between *A. masukuensis* and *A. tephrolaema* (*sensu lato*, including *nigriceps* subsp. and *chlorigula*) but in the latter the colours tend to be brighter and stronger, the bills blacker and heavier and the birds, on the whole, rather larger than in *A. masukuensis*.

In colouring and bill character the Kungwe birds, now represented in the British Museum by two males from Kungwe and a somewhat damaged female from the Matali Mts. (about 6° N: 30° 30' E. and 40 miles east of Kungwe) seem closer to *A. masukuensis* and in particular to *A. m. kakamegae*. This is a grey-throated, grey-headed form known from the Elgon district and the mountains west of Lakes Albert, Edward and Tanganyika. It is represented in the British Museum only by the type, a male from Kakamega. We therefore applied to Professor Schouteden, who most

kindly lent 29 skins from the mountains of the eastern Congo and a male from Mt. Elgon. This series shows that the northernmost birds tend to have the under parts a little brighter (with more yellow pigment) than the more southern birds. There is also a slight tendency for the northern birds to be smaller than the southern, and especially shorter in the tail: males from Elgon and Kakamega have wings 81, 82; tails 74, 74; from Wago, west of L. Albert, wing 75; tail 78; from Lutunguru, west of L. Edward, wings 78, 80, 80, 84; tails 75, 78, 82, 80; while males from the southernmost locality, Kabobo Mt., at about 5° S, west of Lake Tanganyika, have wings 84, 84, 84; tails 79, 81, 83. The biggest male of the whole series, from Masango, about 120 miles north of Kabobo, has wing 85; tail 82 mm.

The two Kungwe males have measurements outside the range of the foregoing series, wings 91, 93; tails 89, 86, while the Matali female, whose wings cannot be measured, has tail 83, compared with 72–81 in the 9 Congo females available. Provisionally therefore, the name *kungwensis* is retained, on the character of larger size, for the population isolated on the east side of Lake Tanganyika, which will now be known as *Andropadus masukuensis kungwensis*.

In the course of studying this species, specimens were borrowed also from the Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard, through the kindness of Dr. Raymond Paynter, in order to ascertain the ranges in southern Tanganyika of the green-headed, green-throated *A. m. masukuensis*, the type locality of which is the Masuku Mts. of Nyasaland, just south of the Tanganyika border, and the green-headed grey-throated *A. m. roehli*, the type locality of which is in the West Usambara Mts., about 500 miles away in the north-east of Tanganyika. Specimens from the Uzungwe, Ukinga and Rungwe Mts. had all previously been identified as *masukuensis* (Bangs & Loveridge 1933: 187).

We found that true *masukuensis* is confined to the Masuku Mts. Birds from Rungwe, about 45 miles to the north-east and separated by low ground, are very close to *masukuensis*, but show some approach to *roehli*. Those from the Ukinga Mts. which begin only 25 miles south-east of Rungwe and are connected with this mountain by ground over 6,000 ft., are also intermediate but closer to *roehli*, while those from the Songea district to the south as well as those from Uzungwe to the north can be regarded as *A. m. roehli*.

References:

- Bangs, O. and Loveridge, A., 1933. Reports on the scientific results of an expedition to the south-western highlands of Tanganyika Territory. *Bull. Mus. Comp. Zool.* 75: 143–221.
- Moreau, R. E., 1941. A new race of Pigmy White-browed Robin-Chat and a new race of the Mountain Greenbul from Tanganyika Territory. *Bull. Brit. Orn. Cl.* 61: 60.

The African subspecies of the Great Crested Grebe

by C. W. BENSON AND M. P. STUART IRWIN

Received 30th March, 1964

Podiceps cristatus infuscatus Salvadori, type-locality Lake Kilole, southern Abyssinia, has been shown by Benson & Irwin (1963) to have a markedly discontinuous distribution in eastern and southern Africa, restricted to waters at higher elevations. In the Main Gamblian wet phase ending some 12,000 years ago (Clark, 1962), when conditions were